

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### Status

This is an Amendment and Reply to the Final Office Action mailed November 13, 2008, in which the following rejections were set forth: Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishimaru* (EP 0568822) in view of *Huh* (KR 20030075939A); and, Claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishimaru* in view of *Huh* as applied to claims 5, 7, and further in view of *Thompson* (US 5,983,421).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the professional courtesies extended in a telephone interview with Applicant's counsel on January 28, 2009.

By this reply, Claims 1, 7, and 15-18 have been amended, and no claims have been added or canceled. As, such, Claim 1-18 are pending in this application.

The amendments to Claims 1, 7, and 15-18 are fully supported by the application as originally filed and no new matter has been added.

### § 103(a) Claim Rejections

#### *Ishimaru* in view of *Huh*

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 7 in accordance with the amendments discussed with the Examiner in the January 28, 2009 interview. As discussed in that interview, neither *Ishimaru* nor *Huh* disclose "a supply line for introducing air from the atmosphere into the drying chamber" or that "the air exits the fuel cell at a temperature of at least 600°C" as required by amended independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively.

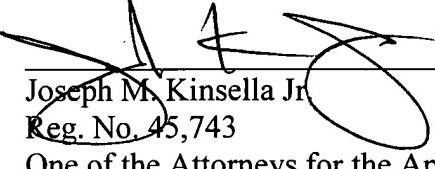
Applicant therefore asserts that the cited prior art does not disclose each and every element of Claims 1 and 7 and requests that the rejections of Claims 1 and 7 be removed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 7—as well as Claims 2-6 and 8-18 by virtue of their respective ultimate dependence there from—be allowed to issue.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be removed and all pending claims be passed to issue. Applicant has included the fee for a one month extension of time herewith. If any additional fees are required with this communication, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

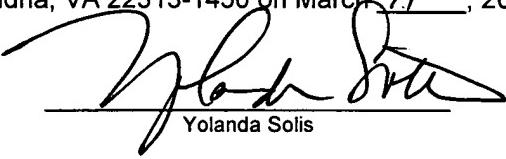
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 11, 2009

  
Joseph M. Kinsella Jr.  
Reg. No. 45,743  
One of the Attorneys for the Applicants

**CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop - AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March //, 2009

  
Yolanda Solis